CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

ENDC/214
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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Letter dated 24 January 1968 from the Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics addressed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Representative of the USSR in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament has received a letter from the World Council of Peace, dated 5 December 1967 and accompanied by a message of the World Council of Peace to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament.

I request you to arrange for the aforesaid message of the World Council of Peace to be circulated by the Committee's Secretariat as an official document of the Committee.

(signed) A. ROSHCHIN

Representative of the USSR in the
Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament

GE.68-1540
68-05023

Brussels, 5 December 1967

Mr. Alexei A. ROSHCHIN

Leader of the USSR delegation
to the Conference of the
Eighteen-Nation Committee on
Disarmament

5 Avenue de la Paix

Geneva.

Sir,

We have the honour to transmit to you the message of the World Council of Peace to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. This message was adopted by the Executive Committee of the World Council of Peace at its session held at Leningrad from 27 to 29 October 1967.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(signed) L. Ghosh

for

Romesh CHANDRA

General Secretary of
the World Council of Peace

(signed) Isabelle Blume

Co-ordinating Chairman
of the
Executive Committee
of the
World Council of Peace

MESSAGE TO THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE

Since the day of its foundation the World Council of Peace has constantly advocated the prohibition of atomic weapons and general and complete disarmament under international control.

The World Council of Peace notes that the armaments race - the nuclear armaments race in particular - is being continued intensively. Today there is in the world approximately eight million times the equivalent of the bomb which made 100,000 victims at Hiroshima, and it is known that biological and chemical weapons of considerable destructive power are being developed and produced in the most secret manner. Mankind is living more and more on the brink of the final catastrophe.

The World Council of Peace has always followed attentively the work of the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament. It warmly welcomed the Moscow Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests, but it has to regret today that that Treaty has not been extended to cover underground explosions (although the technical problems of control have been resolved) and that it has not been signed by all Powers. The World Council of Peace calls for both the extension of that Treaty to cover underground tests and its signature by all countries.

The signing of a treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, by limiting the number of Powers possessing such weapons, would be a step in favour of peace.

It should be accompanied by an undertaking on the part of the nuclear Powers not to use these weapons against non-nuclear Powers. It is obvious that such a treaty should be followed at an early date by the cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons and by substantial disarmament measures.

It is also obvious that arrangements should be made to enable all nations to benefit from the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that there should be no infringement of their independence.

The way would thus be paved for the total prohibition of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and for general and complete disarmament.

The World Council of Peace, in transmitting this message to you, is confident that you will heed the voice of millions of people who, in all the nations, wish to see the threats of extermination disappear and science used exclusively in the service of the good of mankind.

Leningrad, 29 October 1967.